VIEWS OF THE FORTS OF
BHURTPOOR AND WEYRE

ABBOTT

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A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE CAPTURE OF THE FORTS OF BHURTPOOR AND WEYRE. – Lt. George Abbott. Lond. 1827

MANY of Mrs. ABBOTT's Friends having recommended her to add a Sketch of the HISTORY of BHURTPOOR, she begs leave to present to her Subscribers the following short Account of this memorable Fort:—

BHURTPOOR is the Capital of an independent Native Chief, in the Province of Agra, thirty-one miles West by North from the City of Agra. The Rajah is one of the principal Chieftains of the JAUT CASTE, or *Tribe*. His territories occupy an area of about 5,000 square miles. Bhurtpoor is celebrated for the memorable and successful siege it sustained in 1805, against the British Army under Lord LAKE. It is, in itself, of great extent, and everywhere strongly fortified, being surrounded by a mud-wall of great height and thickness, with a very wide and deep ditch. The Fort stands at the eastern extremity of the Town of Bhurtpoor, and is of a square figure, one side overlooking the country, the other three within the town. It occupies a site that appears more elevated than the town. Its walls are also said to be higher, and its ditch of greater width and depth. The circumference of both town and Fort is about eight miles; and the walls, in all their extent, are flanked with bastions at short distances, on which are mounted very numerous artillery. When Lord LAKE's army besieged the Fort, and was discomfited, in 1805, a large expanse of water (a *Jheel*) at the north-west side of the town, suddenly disappeared; and it was subsequently discovered that the whole had been admitted into the ditch that surrounds the town and fort.

Rajah RUNJEET SINGH, who so well defended his capital from the attack of Lord Lake, died early in 1824, and was succeeded by his Son, BALDEO SINGH, who died suddenly on the 28th of February following, having scarcely sat a month on the throne, leaving a Son, BULWUNT SINGH, then seven years of age, who was recognised by Sir David Ochterlony as the legitimate successor. In March, 1825, his Mother and Uncle (his guardians) were attacked by DOORJUN SAL, a cousin of the young Rajah's. The Uncle was murdered, many lives lost, and the boy was taken possession of by the usurper DOORJUN SAL. Lord Amherst, then Governor-General, forbore resorting to coercion, as long as hopes could be reasonably entertained of accomplishing, by means of negociation, the restoration to power of the legitimate Prince, who had been deposed by the usurper DOORJUN SAL; but every effort having been exhausted, at the end of 1825, a powerful army assembled, and siege was laid to the place, which at length was captured by storm, on the 18th of January, 1826, by the British Army, under his Excellency, General Lord COMBERMERE, G.C.B., though bravely and vigorously defended. The loss of the enemy was upwards of four thousand killed. The Fortress of Weyre surrendered to the British four days after the capture of Bhurtpoor. The principal bastions, curtains, and other important parts of the fortification, were subsequently blown up and demolished.

The following are Extracts from a Dispatch of his Excellency, General Lord COMBERMERE, G.C.B., Commander-in-Chief, to the Right Honourable Lord AMHERST, Governor-General, &c. &c. dated "Head Quarters, Bhurtpoor, 19th Jan. 1826:"—

"I have the satisfaction to acquaint your Lordship, that the town and citadel of Bhurtpoor fell yesterday morning to the British Army under my command.

"The explosion of the mine under the north-east angle, at eight o'clock yesterday morning, was the signal for the storm; and in the course of two hours, though vigorously and bravely defended at every gateway and bastion, the whole rampart surrounding the town, together with the command of the gates of the citadel, were in our possession.

"I cannot compute the loss of the enemy at less than four thousand killed; and, owing to the disposition of the Cavalry, hardly a man bearing arms escaped. As, by the surrender of the town, all the stores, arms, and ammunition are in our possession, I may say that the whole military power of the Bhurtpoor state has been annihilated.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM LIEUTENANT G. ABBOTT, DATED JANUARY, 1826.

"I have seen much of the country since October last, and, to wind up, was at the siege, and in the storming party which took the *impregnable* fort of Bhurtpoor. This has been a sore subject of conversation against the English, on account of Lord LAKE's failure; and the natives in the upper provinces threw it in our teeth with insult, and sneered at our entertaining a hope of taking it. The attack was carried on in a very masterly style, and the enemy were the most lazy I ever heard of. They never attempted to sally on us, but contented themselves with wasting an immense quantity of powder and shot from their walls, fired in a random way. Some people think the Bengal army had nothing to do: had they been witness to some of its exertions, they would have told a very different story. We were most unexpectedly ordered to the assault, (I had taken precautions, in case of accidents) which seemed as unexpected on the part of the besieged. A large bastion was to be blown up, to make a breach for the right division of the attack, which was the signal for the assault. I bless my stars that I had the good luck to be a witness of the sight. I never saw any thing so grand. The Europeans, leading the storm in the most cool and deliberate style, planted the colours of England on the crest of the breach. The besieged stood to the best of their power, and fought desperately. In twenty minutes, *ten* regiments were in the town. The slaughter was immense, owing to some of the natives playing false after they had asked for quarter. They dropped on their knees, and asked for mercy; and, when passed, took their matchlocks and fired at those who had just spared them. The next day, between three and four thousand dead were taken out to be burned and buried. Our loss did not amount to more than three hundred killed and wounded—very few killed. Three officers of the leading regiments fell, and three or four were wounded. Some men concealed broke out in a warlike humour, and fired on us when in possession of a part of the town. Two companies, nearest them, soon laid them low; and, in a few minutes, a place of about forty-five yards by thirty was covered with about two hundred and seventy men killed, and a large magazine of arms found. We had eighteen officers with the Regiment, and not one of them touched."

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATES.

No. I.—The Emblematical Frontispiece represents two Fakeers (men who pretend to be devoted to the service of God.) Some of them generally accompany the Native Troops into action, and are always enthusiastically followed by the men, who esteem them as being peculiarly favoured by the Deity.

No. II.—The upper part of the Dedication Plate represents the Crest of the Right Breach, shewing some of the Troops attacking. In the centre are some of the colours taken from the enemy, and the large brass gun, named by the natives, Tope Ullee Muddad, or Allee *(Our)* Succour. Ullee, or Allee, was the son-in-law and successor of Mohummud, and celebrated as a warrior. The sect of the Shoosa are followers of Ally, whose right of succession they maintain in opposition to the Soonnees, who assert that right in favour of Omar.—The extreme length of this gun is 15 feet 3 inches; the circumference at the muzzle, 6 feet; ditto at the breach, 9 feet 9 inches; calibre, 8¼ inches. The gun has been sent to England, and presented to his Majesty.

No. III.—A View of the Right Breach, made by a Mine on the morning of the assault, and stormed by the division led by his Majesty's 14th Foot.

No. IV.—The Breach made in the face of the long-necked Bastion, by several mines, at different periods of the siege, and assaulted by the column led by his Majesty's 59th Foot.

No. V.—A View of the Mud Cavalier on the north-east angle of the Citadel of the Fort of Bhurtpoor, shewing a part of the Citadel Ditch, taken from the Gopaul Ghur Gate.

No. VI.—A View of the South Bridge of the Citadel of the Fort of Bhurtpoor.

No. VII.—The Futteh Baug of the Fortress of Bhurtpoor, shewing the Curtain that was breached by Lord Lake. This Bastion and Curtain were the points from whence his Lordship was repulsed.

No. VIII.—A View taken from the top of the Breach in the long-necked Bastion, looking towards the interior of the Fort, and shewing some parts of the Citadel.

No. IX.—A View of a large Pukah* Cavalier in the Citadel of Bhurtpoor, which was blown up after the place fell; with a View of the Ditch and Escarp, looking southward.

No. X.—A View of the Western Gate of the Citadel of the Fort of Weyre, in the Bhurtpoor State, which was vacated by the enemy, and occupied by a detachment of our troops, four days after the fall of Bhurtpoor.

No. XI.—The North-eastern Angle of the Citadel of the Fort of Weyre.

No. XII.—A View of a large Pukah Bastion, covered with Pukah plaster, on the northern front of the Citadel of the Fort of Weyre; mounting three guns.

No. XIII.—The Eastern Gate of the Citadel of the Fort of Weyre.

* Pukah signifies brick (or stone) and mortar.

W. Birch, Printer, Kensington.

Views of the Forts
of
Bhurtpoore & Weire
by
Lieut. George Abbott 15th Reg. N.I.
1827.

Most Respectfully
DEDICATED
To His Excellency General Lord
COMBERMERE, G.C.B. &c
By His Excellency's obliged & most obedient humble Servant
Geo. Abbott, Lt. 15th Regt.
Nat. Infy

Drawn from Nature by G. Abbott, Lt. 18th Regt. N.I.

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VIEW OF THE RIGHT BREACH.
BHURTPOORE.

Drawn from Nature by G. Abbott Lt. 18th Regt. N.I.

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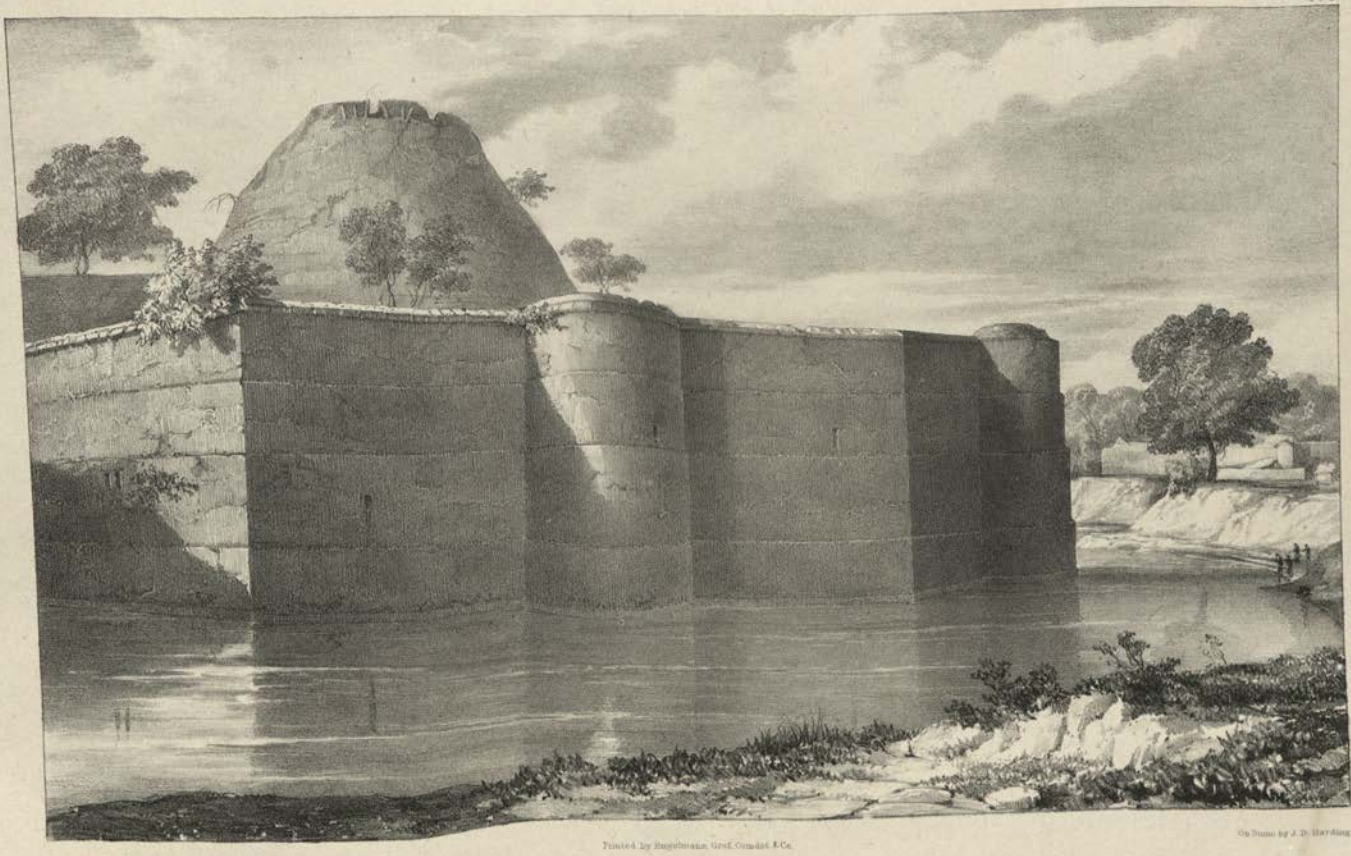
THE BREACH MADE IN THE FACE OF THE LONG NECKED BASTION.

BHURTPOORE.



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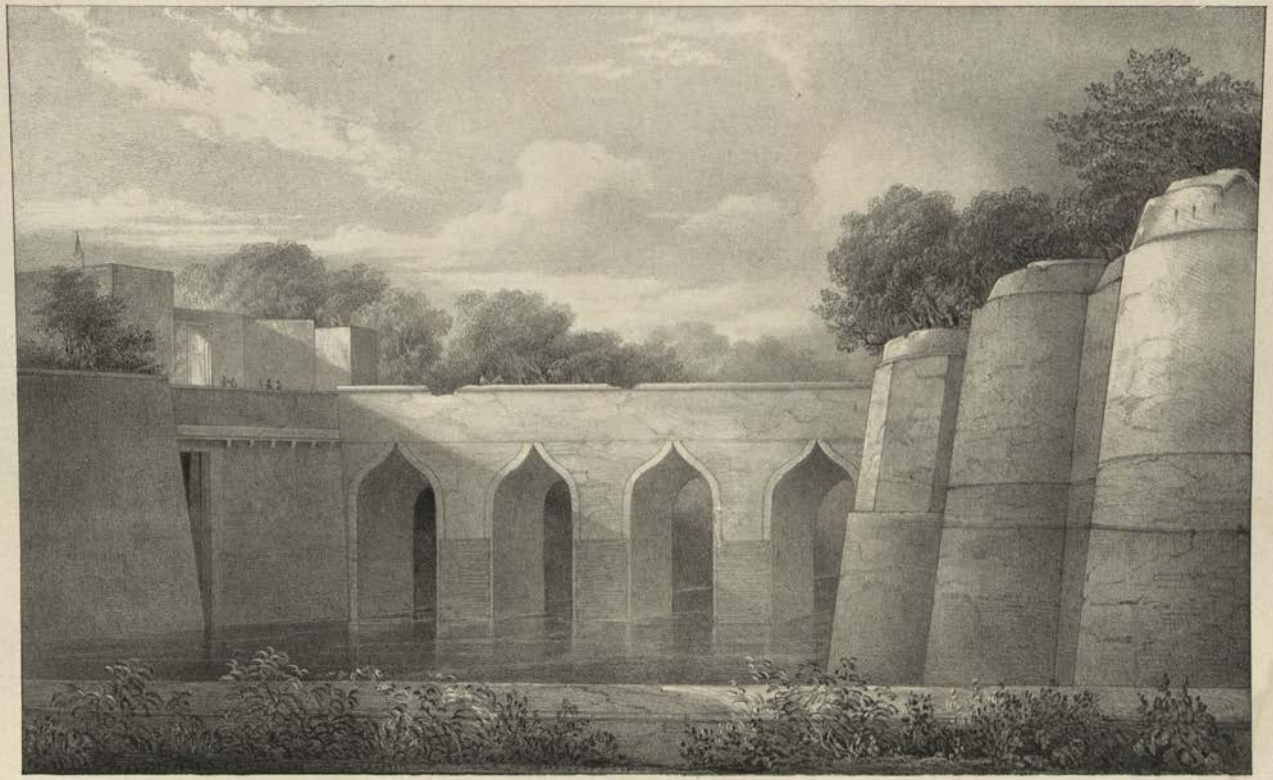
THE MUD CAVALIER ON THE N. E. ANGLE OF THE CITADEL.
BHURTPOORE.



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THE SOUTH BRIDGE OF THE CITADEL.
BHURTPOORE

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THE PUTTEH BAUG,
OF THE FORTRESS OF BHURTPOORE.

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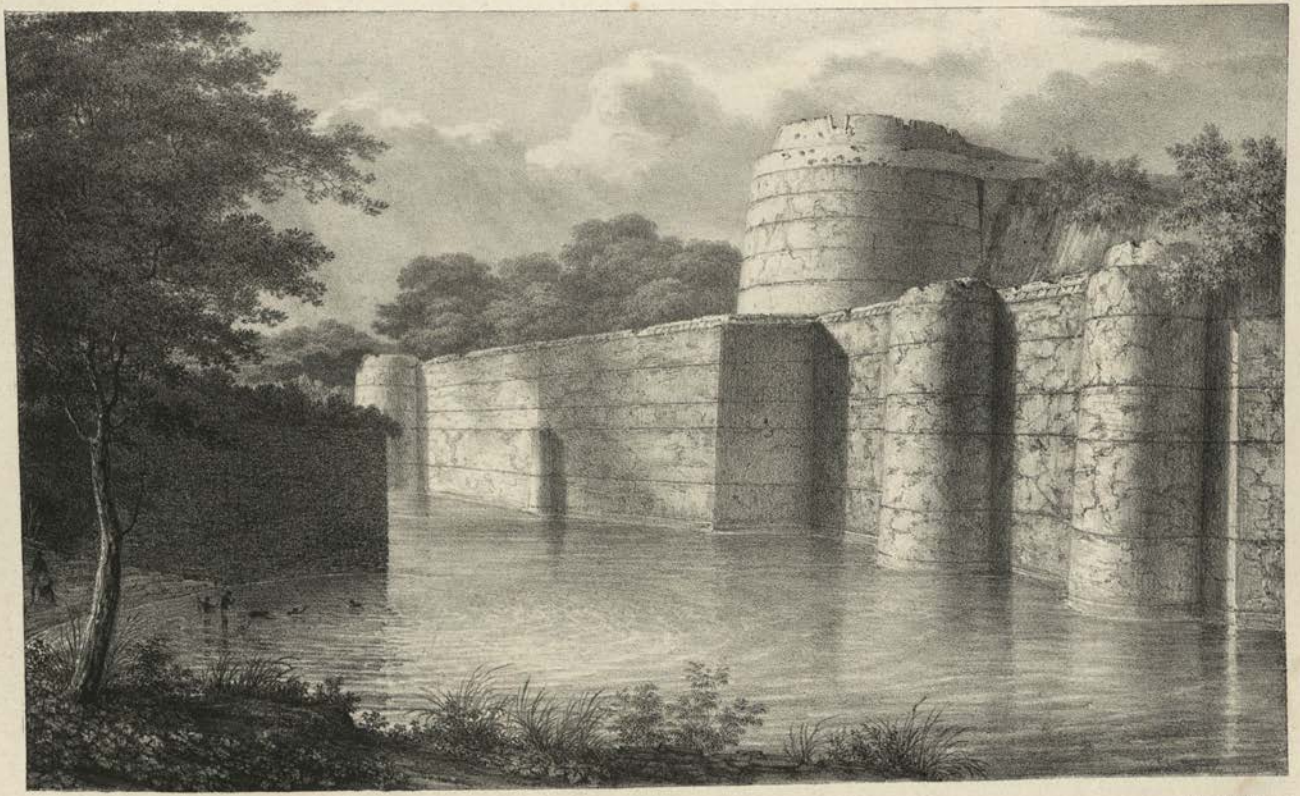
VIEW TAKEN FROM THE TOP OF THE BREACH IN THE LONG NECKED BASTION,
LOOKING TOWARDS THE INTERIOR OF THE PORT.
BHURTPOORE.



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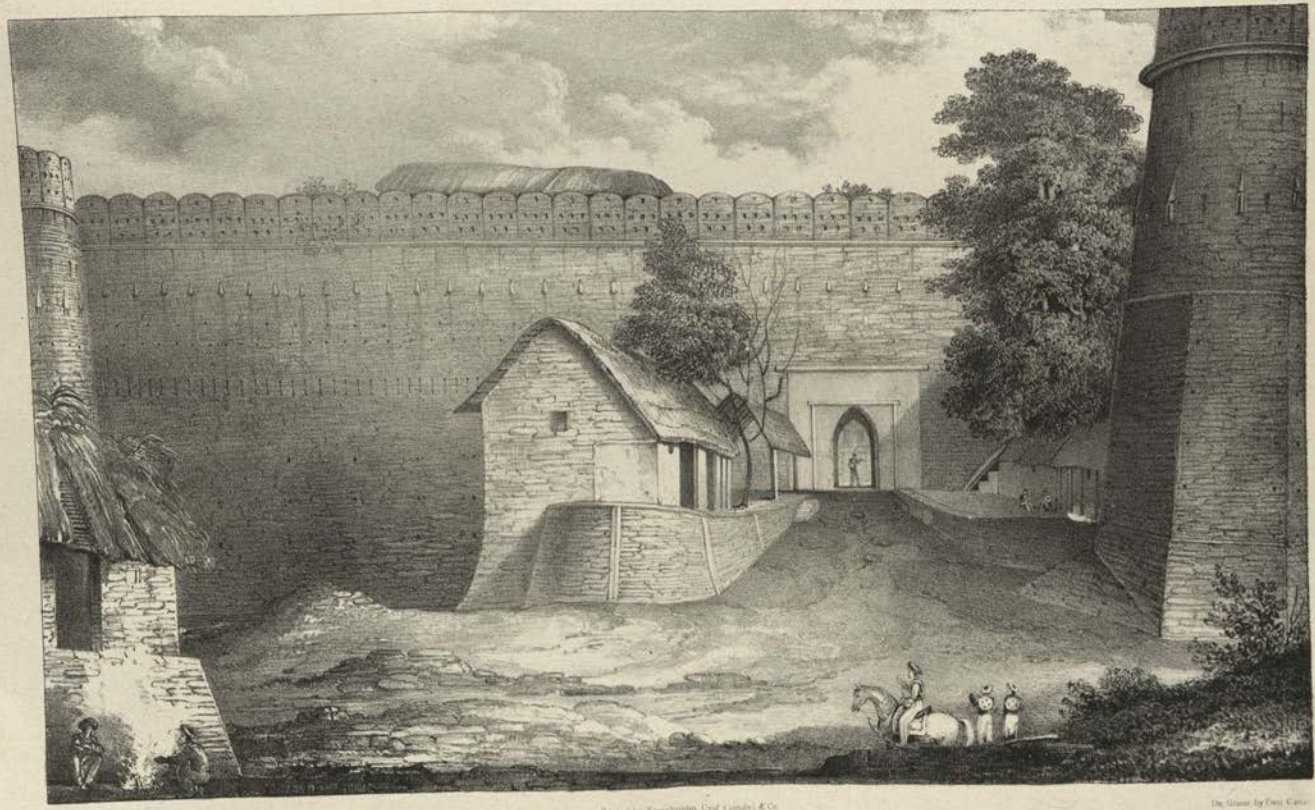
VIEW OF A LARGE PUKAH CAVALIER.
BHURTPOORE.



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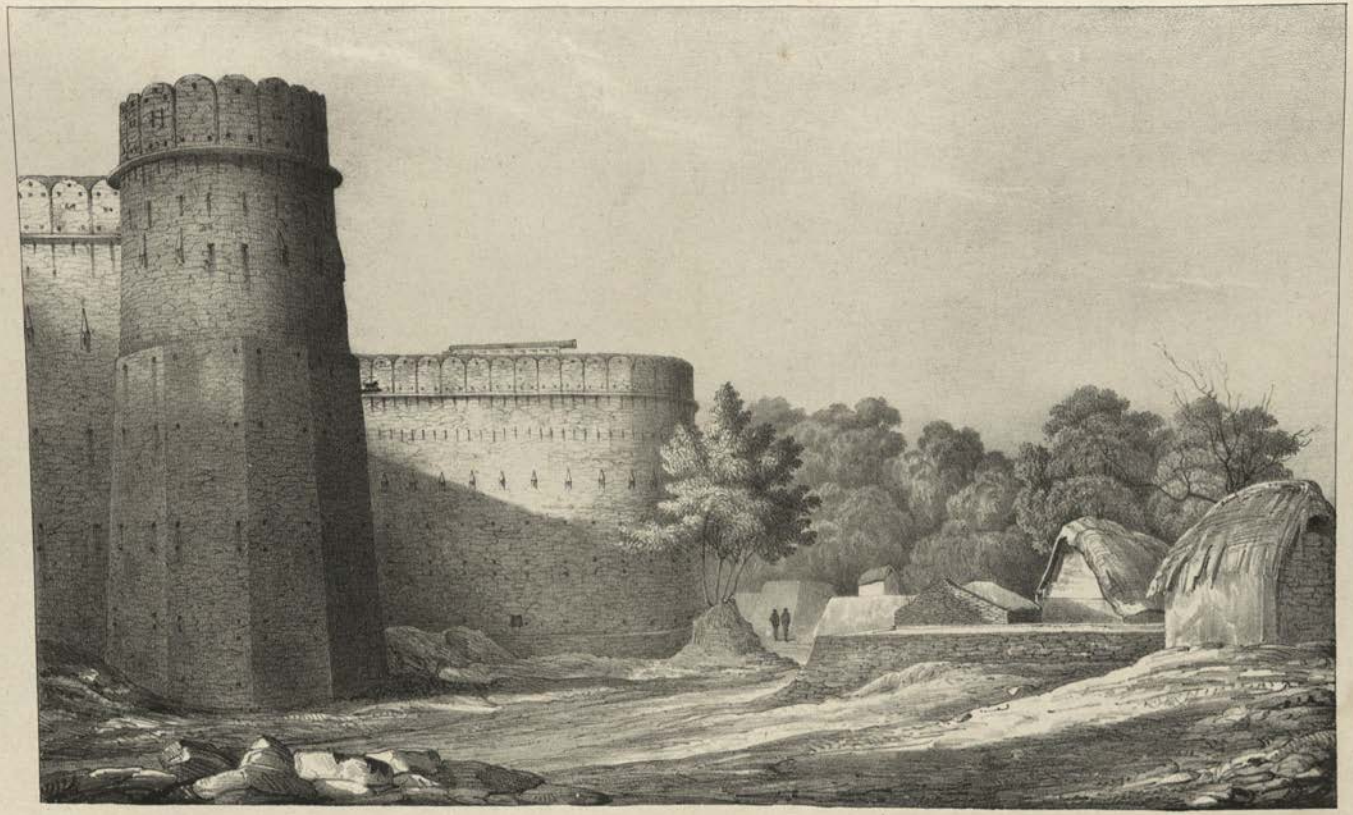
WESTERN GATE OF THE CITADEL
FORT OF WEIRE



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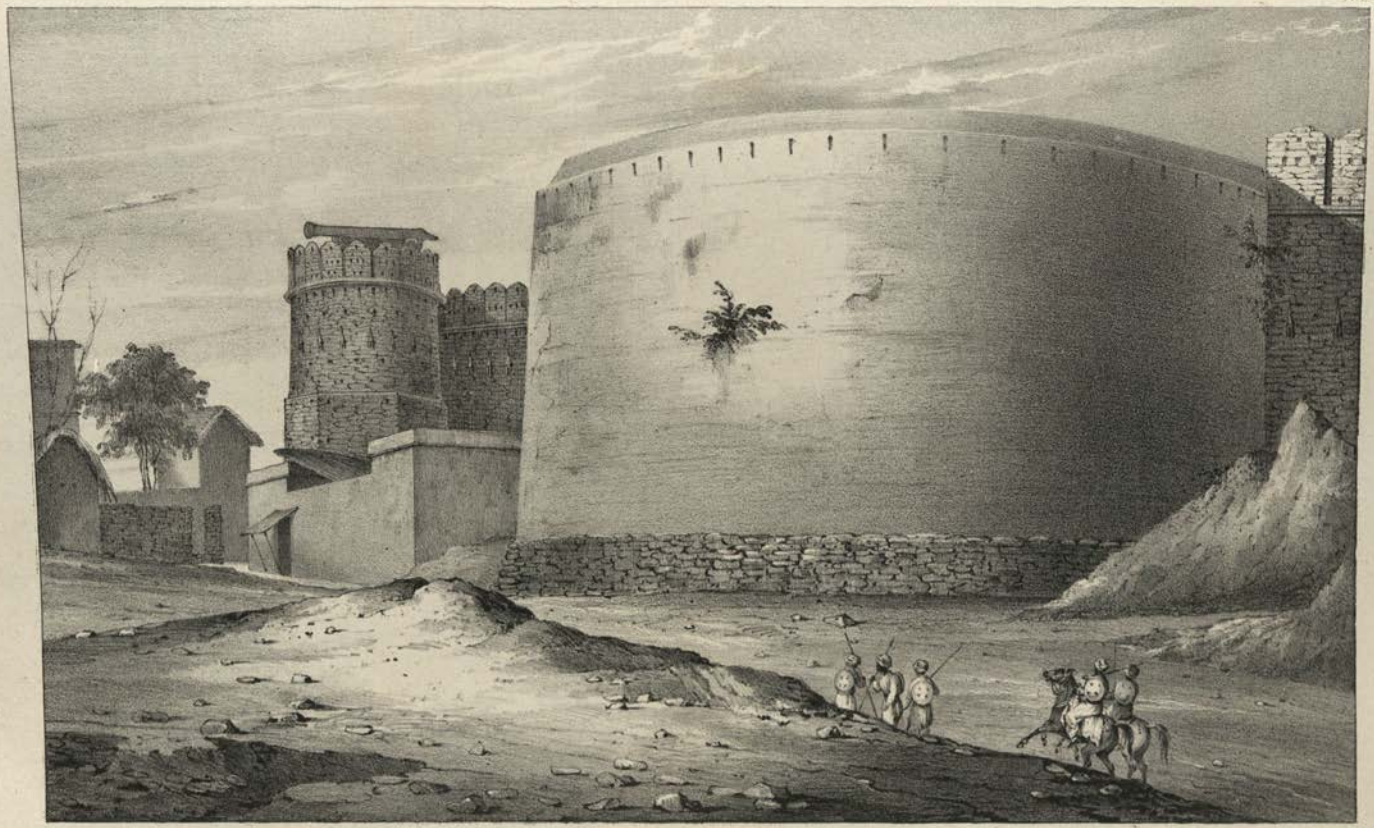
NORTH EAST ANGLE OF THE CITADEL.
NEER.



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VIEW OF A LARGE PUKAH BASTION
ON THE NORTHERN FRONT OF THE CITADEL,
WEIRE.

Drawn from Nature by G. Abbott, 1st 60th Regt. N.I.

Printed by Chapman and Gouldes, Edin.

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EASTERN GATE OF THE CITADEL
FORT OF WEIRE.

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